

REMARKS

The Examiner is requiring an Election/Restriction under 37 CFR 1.499 with regard to Group I, claims 1-12 and 14-16 drawn to a method for manufacturing ceramic hollow fibers and Group II, claim 13 drawn to a ceramic hollow fiber.

The Applicant traverses this requirement because the invention listed in Groups I and II do relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The Examiner has stated that the claims under PCT Rule 13.2 lack the same corresponding special technical features. The Applicant submits that during the previous PCT procedures, no lack of unity was found and accordingly the Examiner is not following the PCT rules.

However, in order to retain the right to Regoinder, claim 13 has been amended to a method for manufacturing.

The Examiner is further requiring the election of the species and has identified the claims corresponding to the species set forth by the Examiner.

The Applicant submits that this election is unnecessary since claims 1-13 have been identified as generic and the species claims depend therefrom. While each species relates to a different use of the ceramic hollow fiber, nonetheless patentable because of the method of manufacture of same. However, to satisfy the requirement the election, the Applicant elects species 1.

In view of the present amendment and the election, the Applicant respectfully requests an Office Action on the merits for the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Hackler', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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